

## Westgate Water Being Tested

*Water Was Shut Off After Odor Noticed*

By Benjamin P. Gleitzman

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Residents of Westgate might be spending some time at the Holiday Inn this spring break — but not for vacation. Low rise units A-E, approximately 30 apartments, underwent water shutdown Wednesday afternoon, said John P. Heiney, G, a Westgate resident who does not live in the affected area.

John G. Engle, program manager of the MIT Facilities Department, said that the decision to do the shutdown was made after residents reported "the distinct odor of oil" in the drinking water. All hot and cold water was disconnected after one resident said water was foul-smelling and discolored, and another filed a follow-up complaint sometime between last Friday and Tuesday morning, he said.

Water was turned back on 2 p.m. yesterday. Those who chose to temporarily move to the Somerville Holiday Inn after initial shutdown were allowed to remain yesterday evening, and Engle says he expects bottled water delivery to Westgate to continue through the weekend.

"It's been two interesting days," said Engle, who described the water as having a "petrochemical odor and discoloration." As of yesterday, it was unknown what caused the murkiness or what contaminants might be in the water.

The shutdown, issued by the Cambridge Water Department as a precaution in response to the

Westgate , Page 14

## GSC Passes Resolutions On New Residence

By Rosa Cao  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

As the March 31 deadline approaches for final decisions on the architectural layout of a new graduate dorm, hopes are fading for a compromise plan that will satisfy both student concerns and the constraints laid out by the MIT administration.

At an emergency General Council Meeting of the GSC on Wednesday, students passed a pair of strongly worded either/or resolutions (see box on pg. 12). The vote to terminate the new construction under the current design passed 22-3-1 (for-against-absenting), while the vote to support the construction of a residence hall that did meet student needs as evaluated by the GSC passed unanimously.

Part of the impetus for the resolutions was the perception among student representatives that the administration was being less than straightforward in their communications, especially given the many changes in constraints presented over the past few weeks.

"These resolutions send a strong message," said GSC president Sylvain Bruni G, noting that students have "left the door open to collaboration in case the administration wants to take a step back and try to hear us



Vivek Jaiswal G (left) helps serve pineapple slices to Ashdown residents during the dormitory's weekly Thursday night coffee hour. Residents heard updates on MIT's plans to build a new graduate dormitory near Sidney-Pacific. The lack of a communal space in the proposed design is a huge drawback for Ashdown's social community.

BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

and work with us."

Last week the deadline for the space planning subcommittee's recommendation was advanced and then

reinstated, partly due to revised estimates of how much time Facilities personnel would need to put together a proposal for the City of Cambridge.

While members of the planning committees are dedicated to remain-

Grad Dorm, Page 12

## Students Rush to Complete Work Before Spring Break

By Harsha Wasalathanthri

The weather begins to change, growing warmer, one hopes. The Daylight Savings time change results in longer evenings, tempting students to spend more time out-

doors rather than in a library. However, as usual, the week before spring break is marked by a sudden increase of studious activity among MIT students. Projects, problem sets, mid-term examinations all keep undergraduates and graduate students alike extra busy until the very last day before the short holiday.

When asked if MIT medical has noticed any trends in stress break-

out among students before spring break, Clinical Director for Campus Life Maryanne Kirkbride said, "We see very few students the week before Spring Break. They're probably too busy."

Why are we all so busy? Senior Associate Dean for Students Robert M. Randolph said that faculty probably wishes to cover as much of the course material before spring break in recognition of the longer days and warmer evenings that come with the second half of the semester.

"In addition is the salient point that only six weeks of the semester remain after spring break, and professors know that they don't have much time left to give out assign-

ments," Randolph concluded.

Meanwhile, students look forward to the coming short holiday. Many of them will be traveling back home to their families. Plans range from meeting up with old high school friends who are also on spring break to just relaxing, going to the beach and getting a tan, hanging out at a favorite hometown coffee shop, or finally finding time for favorite hobbies.

Adam C. Madlinger '07 said, "I'm going to spend a lot of time in the machine shop at home working on my steam locomotive."

Benjamin T. Switala '09 plans to "sleep, chill out and if possible get some 6.001 done."

In an e-mail, Subodh Paudel

'06 of Pi Lambda Phi said that he and eleven of his fellow fraternity members are going to Las Vegas for four days. "There will be gambling and there will be drinking. Other than that, what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas."

For many seniors, however, spring break will be for serious business. Dilan Jayawardane '06 said, "I'll be flying to Seattle for an interview and when I get back, I'll start studying again."

Some students have decided to spend their free time doing community service in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. Partially funded by the MIT Public Services Center,

Spring Break, Page 11



David M. Nole '09 (no. 10) steals second base as WIT's Aaron LaPlante (no. 11) makes the block during the Engineer's season opener on Thursday on Briggs Field. Although LaPlante had the ball long before Nole reached the base, he missed the tag and Nole was ruled safe.

## Seth Alexander to Succeed Bufferd

Seth Alexander has been chosen by the Board of the MIT Investment Company as the next IMC president, according to a MIT News Office press release. Alexander, who is currently a director of the Investment Office at Yale University, will take over the position for Allan S. Bufferd '59, treasurer of the MIT Corporation and the first IMC president, on May 15, 2006, said the press release. The IMC manages MIT's endowment.

Theresa M. Stone, chair of the IMC board of directors, said that "Seth Alexander brings outstanding strategic, analytical, and personal qualities to his new position. The IMC Board is confident that he will continue the highest standards of investment excellence and commitment to the mission of MIT that Allan Bufferd and his Investment Office colleagues have exemplified," according to the press release.

Alexander has worked with the Yale Investment Office for more than ten years and according to the press release, "has been deeply involved in the management of the university's investments and portfolio strategy, and has particular expertise in marketable securities, timber, asset allocation, hedge funds and international investments."

Yale has had exceptional investment performance over the past 20 years among university endowments, the press release stated.

—Marie Y. Thibault

*The Tech* will not publish next week during spring vacation. Regular publication will resume on Tuesday, April 4.



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MIT Symphony Orchestra honors musical milestones.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Military Raid Frees Three Hostages In Iraq After Four Months Captivity

By Kirk Semple

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Acting on a tip from a detainee, a multinational military force stormed a house in western Baghdad early Thursday and rescued two Canadians and a Briton who had been held hostage by a shadowy guerrilla group for nearly four months.

James Loney, 41, and Harmeet Singh Sooden, 32, both from Canada, and Norman Kember, 74, from Britain, were discovered bound yet unguarded, officials reported. The three were whisked to the fortified Green Zone and debriefed by the authorities but did not address the news media, officials said.

The men, all anti-war advocates working for Christian Peacemaker Teams, had been captured Nov. 26 along with an American colleague, Tom Fox, 54, of Clear Brook, Va., whose body was discovered March 9 wrapped in plastic and dumped on a trash pile in western Baghdad. Fox had been tortured, handcuffed and shot, the police said.

Thursday's rescue, by a force that included American and British troops, represented one of the few times that military action in Iraq has played a decisive role in a hostage release.

## China Adds to Uncertainty Over Jailed Times Researcher

By Jim Yardley

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

The United States on Thursday continued to press China about the status of a jailed researcher for The New York Times, but the uncertainty about his fate deepened as a Chinese government spokesman appeared to cast doubt on whether he would soon be released.

The case against Zhao Yan, 44, a Chinese researcher in the Beijing bureau of The Times, was withdrawn last Friday by a court order. His lawyer said the withdrawal of the charges against him — one count of fraud, another of disclosing state secrets to The Times — meant that Zhao would soon be released, possibly on an equivalent of bail.

But the Chinese authorities have since remained silent about the status of Zhao, and he is still behind bars. Asked on Thursday afternoon about the case, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Qin Gang, criticized foreign news organizations for making “irresponsible statements,” and he then offered a cryptic response.

“You ask if Zhao Yan will soon be released,” Qin said during a regular news briefing for foreign reporters. “From what I have learned, the actual situation is not like what you are talking about.”

## U.S. Advisory About Travel in Italy Becomes a Political Issue

By Ian Fisher

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ROME

An American travel advisory on possible dangers in Italy ballooned on Thursday into an issue in the close national election campaign here, with opposition politicians suggesting that the advisory could be used as ammunition against them.

Silvio Berlusconi, the center-right prime minister who is battling to remain in office, immediately seized on the advisory, saying that the “security concerns” addressed in it were caused by demonstrators aligned with the center-left opposition.

“I have the right and the duty to underline the danger of the political left that wishes to bring party leaders to parliament who want to snuff out our opinions by using violence,” Berlusconi said in Rome.

The travel advisory, issued by the State Department on its Web site this week, warned Americans to avoid large crowds, mentioning specifically a violent demonstration on March 11 in Milan carried out by anti-globalization activists.

# Flaws, Abuses in Red Cross Katrina Effort Investigated

By Stephanie Strom

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The American Red Cross, the largest recipient of donations after Hurricane Katrina, is investigating wide-ranging accusations of impropriety among volunteers after the disaster.

John F. McGuire, the interim president and chief executive of the Red Cross, and Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, who is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said some of the actions might have been criminal.

The accusations include improper diversion of relief supplies, failure to follow required Red Cross procedures in tracking and distributing supplies, and use of convicted felons as volunteers in the disaster area in violation of Red Cross rules.

There is no known official estimate of the cash or the value of supplies that might have been misappropriated, but volunteers said it was in the millions of dollars. The Red Cross received roughly 60 percent of the \$3.6 billion that Americans donated for hurricane relief efforts.

McGuire said the investigation started “a number of weeks ago” and

was continuing.

“We’re in the middle of this, and we’re looking at a range of possible problems,” he said, “from issues between a few people that are really nothing other than bad will, to failure to follow good management principles and Red Cross procedures that have caused a lot of waste, to criminal activity.”

McGuire said the organization would do everything in its power to hold wrongdoers accountable. “We need to bring this through to the proper and right conclusion,” he said. “We owe that to donors and the people who needed our services.”

Among the specific problems identified by volunteers were the disappearance of rented cars, generators and some 3,000 of 9,000 air mattresses donated by a private company, as well as the unauthorized possession of Red Cross computer equipment that could be used to reload cash cards and manipulate databases.

McGuire said the investigation was being conducted by a team from his organization’s ethics and compliance department. Because the inquiry is continuing, he said that he could not respond to specific ac-

cusations. When it is completed, he said, any finding of criminal activity would be turned over to law-enforcement authorities.

A phone call to the attorney general’s office in Louisiana was not returned, nor was an e-mail to an official in the Department of Homeland Security who had been contacted by a volunteer looking into the accusations several months ago at the request of the Red Cross.

In interviews over the last two weeks, more than a dozen Red Cross volunteers from around the country described an organization that had virtually no cost controls, little oversight of its inventory, and no mechanism for basic background checks on volunteers given substantial responsibility.

Though there was little direct evidence of criminal activity, the volunteers said the magnitude of the missing goods had convinced them that Red Cross operations were being manipulated for private gain.

“I can’t find any other reason for what was going on,” said Anne Tolmachoff, a volunteer from Louisiana. “Otherwise, it just didn’t make any sense.”

## Chilean Minibus Crash in Andes Leaves Twelve Americans Dead

By Robert D. McFadden

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ten members of a New Jersey retirement community and a Connecticut couple were killed in Chile on Wednesday when a minibus returning to their cruise ship from an adventurous excursion high in the Andes swerved to avoid a truck on a cliff road and plunged 300 feet down a mountainside.

Half a hemisphere away, their deaths reverberated Thursday in voices of grief and remembrance, in a retirement village near Princeton, N.J., called the Ponds, and in Stamford, Conn. They told of a couple soon to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, of a fun-loving retirement-trip organizer who had previously led the way to China, of a neighborhood Mr. Fixit, and of a couple who had waited their whole lives for this trip.

The victims, all in their 60s and 70s, many of them lifelong friends who had lived, worshipped and even retired together, had long looked forward to a South American cruise with exotic inland treks to the wind-swept Andean aeries of soaring condors, of llamas and alpacas. Most were traveling with a tour sponsored by B’nai B’rith, the Jewish service organization.

“Today, all of New Jersey is stunned and saddened by the tragic accident in Chile that took the lives of lifelong friends — vibrant and beloved residents of a community in Monroe Township who chose to share the adventure of their twilight years together,” Gov. Jon S. Corzine said in a statement.

As details of the crash began to emerge from a remote area of northern Chile near the Peruvian border, and as waves of shock and sorrow

washed over families and friends back home, Chilean officials said Thursday that rescue teams had found a horrendous scene — a white, 16-seat bus crushed in a deep ravine and bodies strewn down the slope, with scattered belongings that included local handicrafts.

The Chilean government and a Miami-based cruise line both distanced themselves from the small tour operator of the bus that crashed. Chilean officials said the bus was unregistered and not authorized to carry passengers. And Celebrity Cruises, owner of the ship the victims were traveling on, said the bus tour operator was not affiliated with or approved by the line, and that the reservations for the inland trip had been made independently.

Two other Americans survived the bus crash, as did the Chilean driver and a tour guide, officials said.

## WEATHER

### Marching in Place

By Jonathan R. Moskaitis

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

In New England, March is typically a tumultuous month of large temperature swings and powerful, precipitation-bearing cyclones. However, this March has not lived up to such a reputation. There has been only 0.5 inches (1.3 cm) of precipitation so far (average for the month is nearly 4 inches/10 cm), and just two significant temperature changes. The benign weather will continue for at least the next five days, as we remain in a pattern of cool, dry conditions. A strong storm passing offshore may bring a few showers to our region on Saturday night, but it is very unlikely we will see appreciable rain accumulation.

#### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Mostly cloudy, with a light breeze. High: 42°F (6°C)

**Tonight:** Calm, cool. Low: 32°F (0°C)

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy. High: 40°F (4°C)

**Saturday night:** A few rain showers possible. Low: 33°F (1°C)

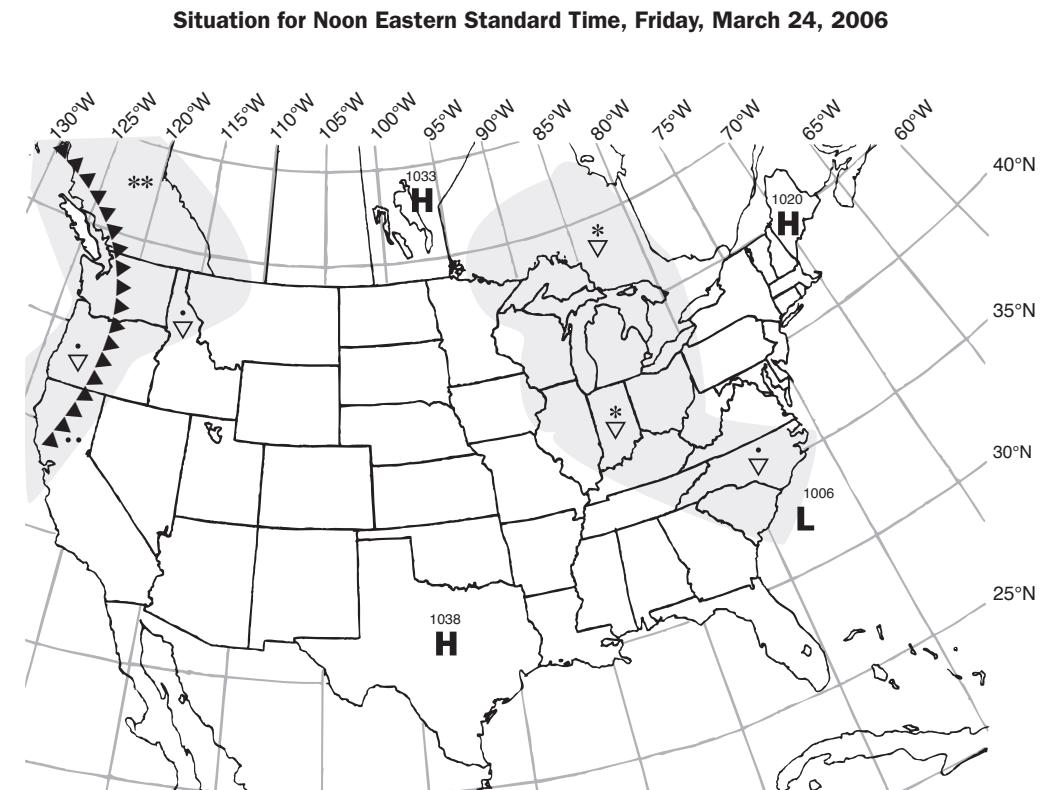
**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy (again). High: 44°F (7°C)

**Monday:** Sunny, breezy. High: 46°F (8°C)

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
<b>H</b> High Pressure	— Trough	Snow Rain	Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Shower * •	Thunderstorm
<b>§</b> Hurricane	▲ Cold Front	Light *	Haze
	◆ Stationary Front	Moderate ** ..	
		Heavy *** ::	

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		Heavy *** ::	

#### Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, March 24, 2006



# State Dept. is Criticized After Purchasing From Chinese Firm

By Keith Bradsher  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG

A State Department purchase of more than 15,000 computers built by the Lenovo Group, a company controlled by the Chinese government, is starting to draw criticism in the latest sign of American unease about the role of foreign companies in the U.S. economy. The computers, worth more than \$13 million, are coming from factories in Raleigh, N.C., and Monterrey, Mexico, that were part of the personal computer division that Lenovo purchased from IBM last May. Sean McCormack, a State Department spokesman, said at the department's daily media briefing on Wednesday that the computers were intended for unclassified systems and would be serviced by the former IBM division.

The computer contracts are drawing heat from a diverse group of liberal and conservative critics who have been warning about China's growing power for years. These critics have been encouraged by the congressional scrutiny given to a plan by a company controlled by the royal family of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates to acquire

operations at six U.S. ports; the company has since agreed to give up those operations. The critics warn that the deal could help China spy on U.S. embassies and U.S. intelligence-gathering activities, using hardware and software planted in the computers.

"The opportunities for intelligence gains by the Chinese are phenomenal," said Michael R. Wessel, a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission, which was created by Congress to monitor and report on the bilateral relationship.

Larry M. Wortzel, the commission's chairman, said in an interview two weeks ago that while he would not be concerned if Airbus moved an aircraft production line to China, he would be worried if Lenovo ever started to sell computers to U.S. government agencies involved in foreign affairs. Responding on Thursday to the Lenovo deal, he predicted that, "Members of Congress, I think, will react very strongly when they see a deal like this come through." Lenovo is a publicly traded subsidiary of Legend Holdings, which was started by the Chinese government in 1984 and

is still controlled by the government; Lenovo declined on Thursday to comment on the computer sales to the State Department.

Word of the computer deal began to trickle out on Monday when a Lenovo distributor, CDW Government, a wholly owned subsidiary of the CDW Corp., sent a press release to members of the business news media announcing its contracts to help the State Department modernize its information technology systems. CDW, based in Vernon Hills, Ill., said that it had been carrying out an \$11.65 million contract to supply the State Department with more than 15,000 Lenovo ThinkCentre M51 desktop computers, plus a \$1.35 million contract to provide nearly 1,000 Lenovo ThinkCentre M51 minitower computers.

Max R. Peterson II, the vice president of federal sales at CDW Government, said in a telephone interview that the State Department had approved a list of specific computer models, including the Lenovo models, and had asked computer systems integrators to bid for contracts to meet the department's needs and make their own choices among approved models.

## Bayer Announces 20 Billion Dollar Offer For Rival Company Schering

By Mark Landler  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

In a surprise bid that could help partially restore Germany's historic prominence in the pharmaceutical industry, the drug and chemical giant Bayer announced a nearly \$20 billion offer on Thursday for its smaller rival, Schering, topping a \$17.9 billion offer by Merck of Germany.

Bayer, a 143-year-old company best known as the inventor of aspirin, said it would pay 86 euros (\$103) a share in cash for Schering, which last week rebuffed an offer of 77 euros (\$92) a share by Merck. Schering and Merck are German companies not related to the American drug giants Schering-Plough and Merck & Co.

Schering, based in Berlin, said it would recommend the offer to its shareholders, which indicated that Bayer was likely to complete the takeover unless Merck raised its bid or yet another suitor entered the fray. An executive close to Merck said it would assess the offer before deciding how to respond.

For Bayer, which has struggled in drugs since the recall of its anticholesterol treatment Baycol over safety

concerns in 2001, and which tried fruitlessly a few years ago to find a partner for its troubled pharmaceutical business, the deal is a striking return to its roots.

Although health care products now account for less than 40 percent of Bayer's annual revenues, which were about \$30.5 billion last year, the Schering acquisition could make health care the largest part of Bayer, with projected sales of \$18 billion a year. Bayer's biggest business now is producing polyurethane, polycarbonates and other manufacturing materials, which accounted for about \$13 billion in sales last year.

"We have for some time believed that Schering was the ideal partner for moving into specialty pharmaceuticals," Arthur Higgins, the chief executive of Bayer's health care division, said in a telephone interview. "We have two excellent German companies coming together."

Shares of Bayer rose 1.4 percent in Frankfurt on Thursday, after rumors of an offer swirled through the market. That suggested that investors would welcome the combination, which would create the world's 12th

largest pharmaceutical company, and a top 10 producer of specialty drugs. Schering is the world leader in oral contraceptives and also specializes in cancer drugs, while Bayer has recently focused its pharmaceutical research on cancer and cardiovascular drugs. In New York, where news of the deal began circulating in midafternoon, Schering's American depository receipts rose nearly 7 percent, to close at \$107.20. But Bayer's ADR's, while ending regular trading up 1.4 percent, to close at \$41.69, fell nearly 3 percent in the after-hours market, as investors had time to digest the agreement's details.

Germany's fragmented drug industry is viewed as ripe for consolidation, having missed out on the wave of mergers that created global goliaths like GlaxoSmithKline, Sanofi-Aventis and Pfizer. Bayer, though Germany's largest pharmaceutical company, ranks only 16th globally.

Analysts had predicted a rival bid for Schering after Merck's unsolicited offer last week put the company into play. But few focused on Bayer, speculating instead about the Swiss drug giant, Novartis.

## Judge in Islam-Christianity Case Vows To Resist Any International Pressure

By Abdul Waheed Wafa  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

The judge presiding over the prosecution of an Afghan man facing the death penalty for converting from Islam to Christianity said Thursday that international pressure would not affect his rulings in the case.

Ansarullah Mawlawi Zada, the head of the public security tribunal here in the Afghan capital, said he had received no international pressure to date, but vowed to resist it.

"There is no direct pressure on our court so far, but if it happens we will consider it as an interference," said Zada. He added that he expects to rule in the case in the next several days.

The judge's comments came as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Afghanistan's Foreign Minister in a meeting in Washington on Thursday that she was deeply troubled by the case, the Associated Press reported.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said that Rice told Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah that the prosecution was "contrary to universal democratic val-

ues," which include freedom of religion. Rice said that the United States fought for those values in Afghanistan, and that the case was contrary to the Afghan constitution, McCormack said.

On Wednesday, President Bush issued a statement that the United States expected Afghan officials to "honor the universal principle of freedom" in the case. Germany, Italy and other countries that have deployed troops in Afghanistan have also issued statements of concern.

Afghan prosecutors have requested the death penalty for the 41-year-old convert, Abdul Rahman. Rahman told a preliminary hearing in Afghanistan last week that he converted to Christianity about 15 years ago while working with a Christian aid group helping refugees. When he recently sought custody of his children from his parents, family members reported his conversion.

Prosecutors have described Rahman as a "microbe" and said conversion is illegal under Islamic law. Conservative Afghan religious leaders dominate the country's courts and

prosecutorial offices, but Afghanistan's American-backed constitution guarantees freedom of religion.

The case illustrates the continued tensions between Afghan President Hamid Karzai, an American-backed religious moderate, and religious hardliners who dominate the country's courts. Over the last several years conservative judges have threatened to close Afghan television stations that aired material they deemed indecent and charged journalists with publishing material they declared blasphemous.

In the past, Karzai has defused clashes with conservative judges by failing to implement their rulings or striking closed-door compromises with them. Rahman's case has attracted far more attention than others and sparked vocal complaints from American Christian groups.

On Thursday, an aide to Karzai said that the case would be decided by the Afghan court system. Mawlawi Muhammed Baloch, Karzai's adviser on religious affairs, said the case belonged in court and that Afghanistan's judiciary was independent.

## Cease-Fire Called Step Toward More Autonomy in Spain's Basque

By Renwick McLean  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MADRID, SPAIN

The governing party in the Basque region of northern Spain said Thursday that the permanent cease-fire announced Wednesday by the militant Basque separatist group ETA opened the way for the region to loosen its ties with the central government in Madrid.

Inigo Urkullu, a member of the governing Basque Nationalist Party, said that it was time for the central government to begin addressing the demands of the Basque region's peaceful separatists and supporters of more autonomy, who had long complained that they were unfairly associated with ETA.

"There is a political problem that predates the atmosphere of violence that has caused so much pain in Basque society," Urkullu said Thursday in an appearance on the region's public television station.

His comments echoed the views expressed Wednesday by the president of the Basque region, Juan Jose Ibarretxe, shortly after ETA announced that it would end its four-decade campaign of violence, during which it killed more than 800 people, in pursuit of an independent Basque state.

## A Controversial Therapy For Diabetes is Verified, in Mice

By Gina Kolata  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Three groups of scientists report Friday that they independently replicated a controversial finding: Severely diabetic mice can recover on their own if researchers squelch an immune system attack that is causing the disease.

It is a discovery that was first published in 2001 and raised the hopes of people with Type 1 diabetes, which usually occurs in puberty and afflicts an estimated half-million to a million Americans. If the findings applied to humans, they might mean reversing a disease that had seemed incurable.

The findings also gave rise to questions about using embryonic stem cells as replacement cells for diabetics, a method that is the focus of intense interest. If it is possible, in mice, for the pancreas to cure itself, and if the same finding holds true in humans — which, so far, is entirely unknown — adding embryonic stem cells as the source of new pancreas cells might provide little added benefit, if any.

In any event, scientists are not yet ready to treat diabetic patients with embryonic stem cells; they first have to prod the cells to turn into insulin-secreting pancreas cells. Meanwhile, efforts to cure diabetes by transplanting pancreas cells from cadavers have met with limited success.

## Economist Magazine Names Editor in Chief

By Katharine Q. Seelye  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Economist magazine, the urbane British weekly that has been expanding its foothold in America, on Thursday appointed its U.S. editor as its editor in chief.

The editor, John Micklithwait, 43, who is British, was the magazine's New York bureau chief and set up its office in Los Angeles. He has been the U.S. editor since 1999 and runs that desk from London.

The selection of Micklithwait is an indication of where The Economist expects to find its growth. The magazine, founded in London in 1843 by a Scottish hat maker to promote free trade, has a circulation of more than 1 million, with more than half (569,000) in North America. It now sells more than three times as many copies in the United States as in Britain.

## Prosecution of Moussaoui Finishes Up

By Neil A. Lewis  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Prosecutors on Thursday finished presenting their case that Zacarias Moussaoui should be executed for the deaths that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, offering evidence linking him to the Qaida paymaster who provided money to most of the 19 hijackers who died in the plot.

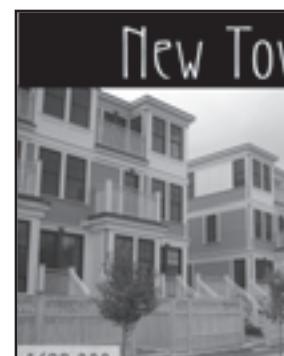
The trial, which will resume Monday, offers the possibility of three dramatic moments in short order. First, the court may hear from Carla J. Martin, the Transportation Security Administration lawyer whose improper coaching of witnesses nearly derailed the trial.

Then, as Moussaoui's lawyers pick up the arguments they began Thursday afternoon, the jury is expected to have the extraordinary experience of hearing testimony gathered somewhere in America's secret overseas detention system.

Defense lawyers plan to have people recite the testimony of some of the most valuable captives, including Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, and Ramzi Binalshibh, the operation's paymaster, who are imprisoned somewhere under U.S. supervision. There also might be testimony read from Mohammed Al-Qahtani, a prisoner at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who is believed by many to have been the missing "20th hijacker."

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## Editor's Note

Because of an editing error, the March 14 article "UA President & VP Candidates Discuss Platforms" failed to mention that then-vice presidential candidate Ruth Miller '07 is an Opinion Editor of *The Tech*, although previous articles had. In addition, the ordering of the candidate interviews may have given the appearance of bias, since Miller's ticket with Andrew

T. Lukmann '07 came first in the article and therefore was the only one featured on the front page. In retrospect, a better format would have included the three interviews in parallel on the front page.

Jenny Zhang  
Editor in Chief

## Corrections

The March 21 gymnastic photograph on page 16 misidentified the gymnastic position. It was a planche, not a straddleseat.

## Letters To The Editor

### Playing Nice

After reading Caitlin Murray's softball article in *The Tech* on March 21, I was left with mixed feelings. She did a great job covering the specifics of the game; in fact, I felt it was one of the better articles not written by Sports Information to appear in the Tech — not only during my time as an assistant coach, but in the few years I have worked at MIT prior to joining the athletic department. That being said, I also feel that it could have done without

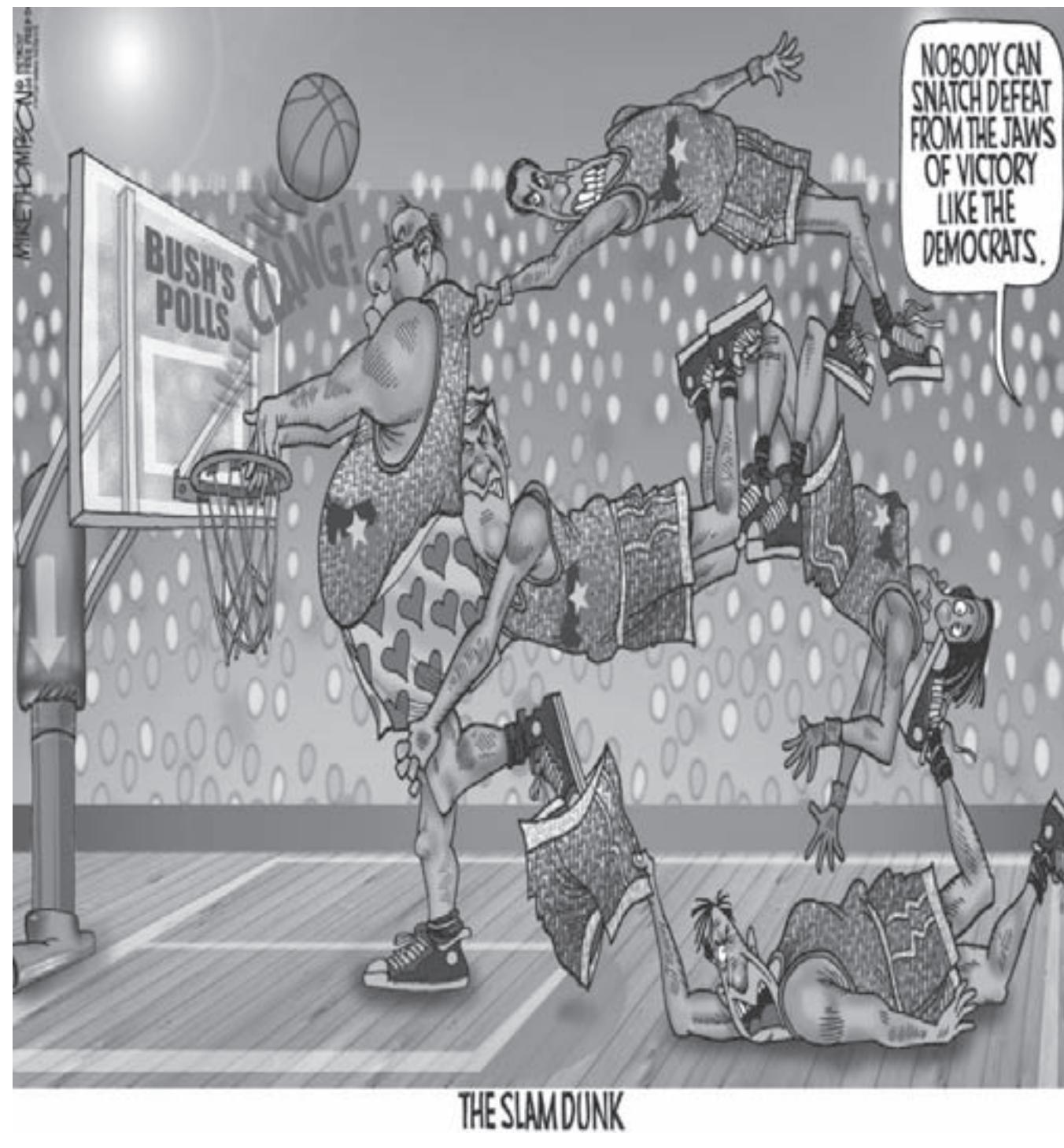
the scrutiny and negativity included in her last paragraph.

To say that "if they expect to improve their record this season, their offense is going to have to be able to knock in runs. Stranding seven does not bode well for their ability to produce in the future" puts a negative stigma on a great group of young women who have worked very hard and have shown much improvement both individually and as a group from last year. While Murray's previous quote is true in the context of softball, I don't believe that strand-

ing seven in our first game (coincidentally, the first non-intrasquad competition) is a harbinger for our entire season. The end focus should have been on the positives that came out of the game, or even the straight facts. Not the negatives or a season forecast by someone who hasn't seen what the team is capable of.

There is a very bright future for MIT Softball; one I would encourage you all to come out and watch.

Rhianna Cohen  
Assistant Softball Coach



### Opinion Policy

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, opinion editors, a senior editor, and an opinion staffer.

**Dissents** are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

**Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to [letters@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@the-tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

*The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

**Guest columns** are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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March 24,  
2006

# COMICS FUN PAGES

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The  
Tech

Trio

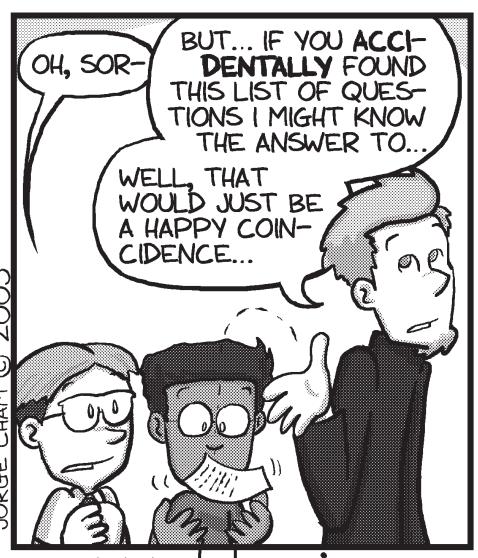
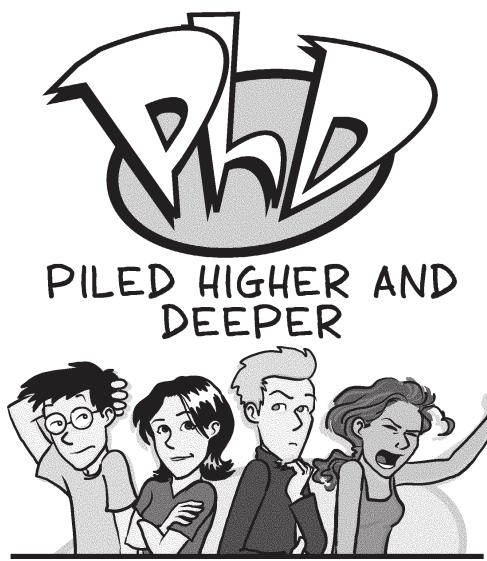
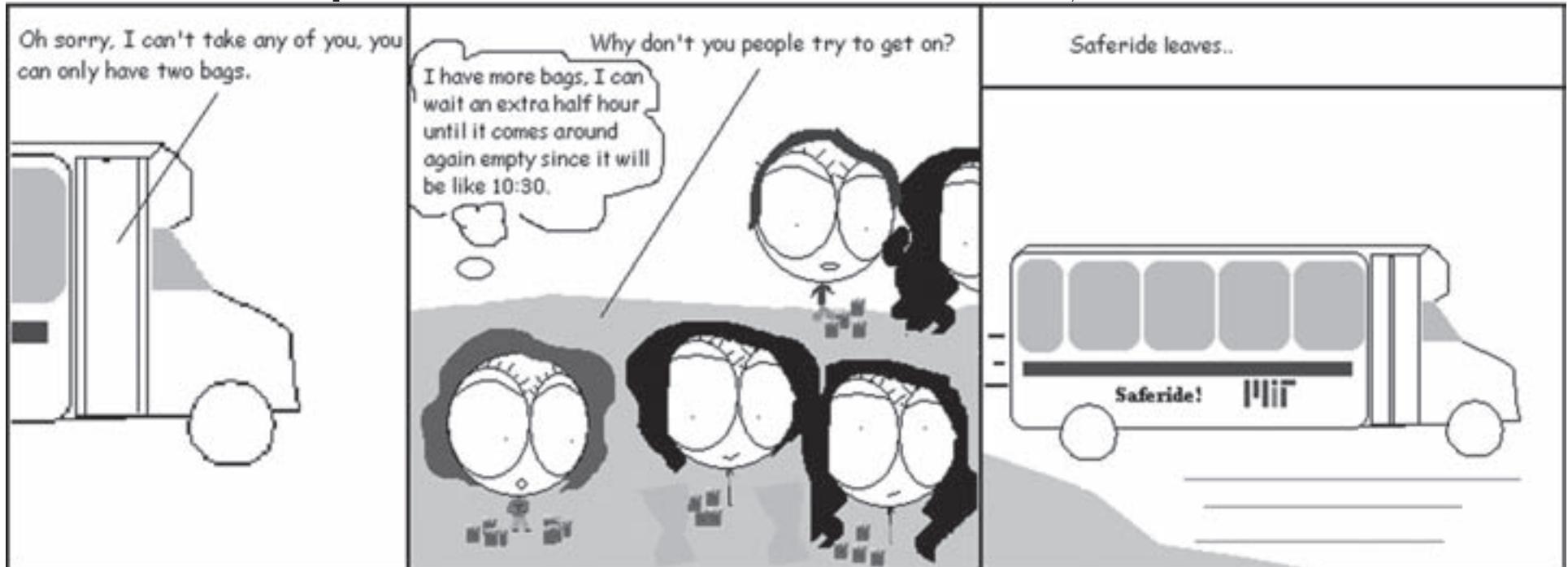
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A Saferide Experience

by Otoniel Tabares and Shahbano Imran



**FoxTrot**

by Bill Amend

**Dilbert®** by Scott Adams**su|do|ku**

© Puzzles by Pappocom

A blank 9x9 grid for a Sudoku puzzle. The grid is divided into nine 3x3 subgrids by thicker lines. The entire grid is composed of thin lines.

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.  
Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution on page 13.

# ARTS

## CLASSICAL REVIEW

# *Happy Birthday, Composers!*

*MITSO Honors Classical and Contemporary Musical Milestones*

By Tony Hwang

STAFF WRITER

MIT Symphony Orchestra  
Dante Anzolini, director  
Kresge Auditorium  
March 17, 8 p.m.

**B**efore entering Kresge Auditorium, I noticed that the score of "Happy Birthday" was printed on the cover of the concert program. Indeed, the evening's program was chosen to celebrate anniversaries of composer birthdays premieres. Unlike the spirit of the program, however, the content of the pieces was often shrill or dark and eerie, perhaps causing much of the audience to be taken aback.

The concert opened with Dmitri Shostakovich's "Prelude and Scherzo, Op. 11." This strings-only piece was selected for the program because this year marks the 100th birthday of Shostakovich. He wrote it during his time at the Conservatory of Petrograd, and it was later accepted for performance by the Leningrad Philharmonic. MITSO's string sections sported a new seating arrangement to accommodate the nature of the piece: the second violins faced the firsts across the stage, while the violas, cellos, and basses shuffled spots.

Once everyone was settled, conductor Dante Anzolini raised his baton and the first slow, eerie notes drifted off the stage. The principal players of each section then proceeded to weave a thin web of chilling solos. It was slightly off-kilter, with noticeably different vibratos and articulations among players, but the unsettling effect was still captured well. Soon, the prelude developed into the fast-paced scherzo, with sharp spiccato and demonic energy. The string players struggled through technically challenging passages in extremely high registers of their instruments, resulting in lapses in intonation. Harmonies, however, would lock back together once the notes progressed back into more comfortable ranges. When the scherzo concluded on a unison note, the audience seemed unsure of what to make of the performance, but perhaps the takeaway message was unclear in the first place.

Much relief could be felt after the winds joined the stage and the bright opening chords of Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte: Overture, K. 620" rang through the hall. It is Mozart's

250th birthday this year, and it seemed fitting that the orchestra chose the overture from one of his most famous operas — "The Magic Flute." MITSO was more at home with the familiar sounds of Mozart; their execution was precise. Dynamic contrasts were apparent, and proper stylistic playing created a cheerful mood. Upon modulation into minor, the brass sections did a praiseworthy job of matching chord pitches, while the woodwinds brought out their singing lines beautifully. The strings played with renewed energy and built toward a convincingly triumphant conclusion. The audience reaction was much stronger this time, as they were happy to support a recognizable piece.

Next was John Harbison's "Darkbloom: Overture to an Imagined Opera," premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra just one year ago. The overture

tells the tale of the awkward interactions between male and female, described by Harbison as having a "tragic-comic spirit." Harbison never finished the opera because he felt it was inappropriate to tackle taboo subject matter in an opera, but was happy to gather his early thoughts into "Darkbloom." The piece opened with some interesting seven chord harmonies and quickly developed a jazzy feel. A lot of glissandi and syncopated rhythms furthered this effect, and MITSO did well to oblige. The piece, though, did not fit a particular jazz idiom, as there was always a little twist in the harmonization as well as particular emphasis on percussion hits that kept the beat. When the piece was finished, Harbison, who was in the audience, stood and received due gratitude for his work.

After the intermission, MITSO delivered an honest rendition of "Symphony No. 3" by the great American composer, Aaron Copland.



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH

**MIT Symphony Orchestra conductor Dante Anzolini directs his orchestra during Symphony No. 3 by Aaron Copland. MITSO held a concert entitled "Anniversaries" on Friday, March 17 in Kresge Auditorium to celebrate the birthdays of composers Shostakovich, Mozart, and the premier of pieces by Copland and Harbison.**

The BSO also premiered this piece (albeit 60 years ago), and it was an interesting pick for the second half of the concert. The opening movement, Molto Allegro, had a cinematic feel, characterized by open intervals and common musical turns that popular culture has become accustomed to hearing at the movies. MITSO had a powerful sound, making sharp contrasts when necessary and in general playing tighter as a group. The next movement, Allegro Molto, opened with yet another impressive fanfare from the brass and developed into a playful, rhythmic jaunt that occasionally lapsed into tranquility but never lost its overall pace. Interesting instrumentation, including ratchet, anvil, tubular bells, and celesta, was allowed to shine in this movement.

The final movements began with a soft, mysterious opening by the violins, but eventually became agitated. Although this feeling

of edginess was supposed to be sustained, MITSO was unable to keep up the tension, and the audience was lulled until surprised by Copland's insertion of his "Fanfare for the Common Man." This popular melody has often been used in television and movies, and thus the listeners were very startled to hear it suddenly emerge from nowhere. From this point on, MITSO appropriately continued to increase the intensity of the symphony until the glorious finish.

Friday's concert was truly a difficult undertaking for MITSO. The program they performed would be hard for any orchestra to execute well, and MITSO put forth an admirable effort. After observing their successful preparation for this demanding program, I am looking forward to seeing how they will deal with the challenges of Mahler's "Symphony No. 7" at their next concert.

## THEATER REVIEW

# *Ensemble's 'Lear' is Every Inch a King*

*King Lear and Other Great Lead Actors Shine Despite Awkward Setting*

By Allison Brown, Lisa Song,  
and Noelle Steber

*King Lear*  
MIT Shakespeare Ensemble  
March 16-18, 23-25; 8 p.m.  
\$6 students, \$8 general

A play about what happens when majesty falls to folly managed to avoid that trap itself through several brilliant performances, good blocking, and moments of striking symbolism. Last Friday night's production of "King Lear," presented by the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble, was a solid interpretation of the great tragedy.

Despite a few stilted performances, overall the actors knew their parts very well. Four in particular, Brian J. Keller '06, Tom Giordano, Meg A. Rosenburg, and Erin Price CME, were so extraordinary that everyone else paled in comparison. Keller disappeared entirely into the mindset of the old and frail King Lear; his moments of insanity were chillingly unsettling and believ-

*Despite a few stilted performances, overall the actors knew their parts very well.*

able. And enough can't be said about the Fool (Giordano) — even when sitting down to listen to the other actors, he remained in character. His use of movement kept the audience constantly engaged, and his speeches were absolutely hysterical.

Cordelia (Rosenburg) outshone her sisters, both in morality and her portrayal — manipulating intonation, volume, and tone, Rosenburg made the Shakespearean language effortless to understand. The acting for her sisters wasn't too bad, but they spent too much time staring haughtily into space; a bit more movement would have completed

the characters.

But now gods, stand up for bastards! It was strange at first to see female actors playing Kent (Hanna S. Kuznetsov '09) and Edmund (Price), but they did it well, and Price was a star. Price made Edmund swagger around during monologues, gleefully weaving devious plots, and swiftly morphing into fearful, sincere, or loving, as the situation demanded.

In an especially spectacular scene, Gloucester loses his eyes. Whatever was used to represent the first eyeball going squish was almost too realistic, and Regan (Shannon L. Greer '06)'s calm cruelty in stabbing out the second was deliciously horrifying.

Unfortunately, the background music wasn't always timed well, and the sound often overpowered the actors, especially in the

rain sequence (which sounded like porcelain sticks banging on wooden floors). A softer, more gentle sound would have been less distracting and more realistic.

The scenery, which consisted of several boxes of varying size with a few bright draperies, also took some getting used to. It all made more sense, however, once the Dukes of Cornwall (Cory D. Crain G) and Albany (Dennis V. Perepelitsa '07) — and later the evil sisters — began to strip the stage of the colorful draperies, symbolizing their takeover of Lear's kingdom.

Though the set and music were slightly off, the actors' efforts shone through. There were some bland points, but they were well balanced by several absolutely spectacular moments.



MARY-IRENE LANG—THE TECH  
**King Lear's fool, played by Tom Giordano, uses wit and song to mock Lear's decision to divide his kingdom. The Shakespeare Ensemble's production of King Lear runs at 8 p.m. in La Sala today and tomorrow.**

## THEATER REVIEW

# And Your Father Smelt of Elderberries!

## Monty Python's 'Grail' Takes on Outrageous Musical Form in 'SPAMALOT'

By Nivair Gabriel

ARTS EDITOR

Monty Python's SPAMALOT  
Broadway in Boston Series  
The Colonial Theatre  
March 7 - April 15, 2006

**W**ould you believe that Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, and Michael Palin all attended either Cambridge or Oxford?

The Monty Pythons have quite an impressive pedigree. Their true genius, however, lies in their ability to find fun in every aspect of life — a skill most overworked university students sorely need, and one that is exemplified in this new musical “lovingly ripped off” from the motion picture “Monty Python and the Holy Grail.” Indeed, “Dik Od Triaanen Fol (Finns Ain’t What They Used To Be)” is a near-perfect dose of pure entertainment. All of the mōoše are really quite lovely, with their long pretty hōrnš and delightful plumage.

(Please excuse the last paragraph. A new writer has been found. — Eds.)

If you’ve seen the film “Monty Python and the Holy Grail,” don’t think that there’s nothing new for you here. Sure, the French taunters, Black Knight, killer rabbit, Tim the enchanter, and the Knights of Ni all make an appearance, as well as many other familiar and beloved

characters. Be prepared, though, to meet the Lady of the Lake (and her Laker Girls), and to make some startling new discoveries about Sir Lancelot (you may sing along, of course).

Most notable of the new musical characters is Sir Not Appearing In This Show (Gavin Lodge), whose nuanced performance and deep, resounding singing voice reminds me of the goed old dayš in Finland with my mōoše, Ben-koočki.

(Again, excuse us. Back to the review. — Eds.)

Re-adapting “Grail” to fit into a Broadway musical is at first an odd and daunting concept. The song “I Am Not Dead Yet,” about an unfortunate man thrown into a pile of lifeless bodies by his companion, goes on long enough to completely kill the joke, revive it again, and then flog it to death once more.

In spite of this mishap, however, the rest of the show demonstrates that a musical just may be the best way to present the Pythons’ comedy. Its ridiculous nature enables “SPAMALOT” to pull out all the dramatic stops and do every

wild thing an audience has ever wished for: completely coat costumes in glitter, shoot confetti from the sides of the theater, flash strobe lights, mock other Broadway musicals, hang people on wires, explode fake chandeliers onstage, and the best audience participation stunt ever — to find out, you’ll just have to see it.

Impressive special effects notwithstanding

ing, the performers clearly have the time of their lives with their roles. Pia Glenn raised the bar, achieving at once humor, grace, and glamour as the sonorous Lady of the Lake. The powerful beauty of her voice reminds the audience that they really are watching a Broadway musical; silly though it is, the talent of the actors is no less commendable. It’s a shame that Bradley Dean’s Sir Galahad — and his outrageously sparkling smile — didn’t have a larger role, but Dean had two more chances to shine as the Black Knight and as Prince Herbert’s frustrated father. Michael Siberry (King Arthur), Jeff Dumas (Patsy), and Tom Deckman (Prince Herbert) are perfect as well, bringing the spirit and personality of the film to the stage with seemingly no trouble at all.

The rush to be faithful to “Grail”’s brilliance, however, does present some obstacles for a musical. Though the costumes of the leads are easily recognizable for fans of the film, they’re too awkward for any complicated dancing. The creation of classic Broadway music, too, is a challenge, and John de Prez and Eric Idle lacked that Broadway sparkle during

*“Its ridiculous nature enables ‘SPAMALOT’ to pull out all the dramatic stops and do every wild thing an audience has ever wished for ...”*

its creation. A few of the songs appeared to be part of a struggle to give the show credibility as a musical and not just a farce, when in fact the purely comedic numbers were far better. There were a few catchy and enjoyable tunes, but most of the real gems, like “Brave Sir Robin,” were not new.

The pair did not shy from adding new hilarity in the form of music, though, so all was not lost. Direct conversation between the actors and the orchestra pit enhance several scenes in the musical in a way that was never possible in film.

One new creation, “You Won’t Succeed in Broadway,” is at once unforgettable, hilarious, and offensive: perfect for Monty Python, and appropriate for a dancing act in a comedy show.

In no way is this a traditional musical, but you don’t have to be a Pythonophile already to love it. Though the audience cheered as soon as they recognized favorite scenes, “SPAMALOT” offers a more polished and cohesive form of “Grail” for new and old viewers alike. Make sure you get a ticket, but try not to get hit by a flying French cow on your way to the Colonial Theatre.

## CONCERT REVIEW

# James Blunt Gives 'Beautiful' Concert

## Orpheum Perfect Venue for Talented Artist and Lively Performance

By Jillian Berry

ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

James Blunt  
Orpheum Theatre  
1 Hamilton Pl  
Boston, MA 02108  
March 18, 2006

James Blunt’s “Back to Bedlam” Tour hit Boston as he played a sold out show at the Orpheum Theatre on Saturday. Blunt may best be known for his debut single “You’re Beautiful,” but his debut album, “Back to Bedlam,” is much more than tragic love songs. Many of the songs reflect his days in the British army as a peacekeeper in Kosovo. No two tracks on the CD are similar, and the style is uniquely Blunt.

The Orpheum is a large theater similar in size to the Wang Theatre or the Boston Opera House, but with a lot less gold leaf and a little more shabbiness. Although the Orpheum will not win any awards for its décor, it’s a great place for a concert. A little larger than a club, it is still much smaller than a stadium and much more intimate (plus, you get your own seat).

The opening act was a little-known band from the UK called The Boy Least Likely To. Everyone was a little disappointed because we thought Jason Mraz was going to open. Nevertheless, The Boy Least Likely To was

not that bad. Their music is an interesting mix of country, rock, and techno, and they added a little British humor between the songs. Considering they came to Boston from Texas at 4:00 a.m., they were very energetic, though quite awkward dancers. The biggest problem with their act was the sound mixing; the bass was very loud, and it was often difficult to hear the lyrics or their comments. Luckily, the staff fixed this problem before Blunt came on.

Blunt opened with “Breathe”, a song not on the “Bedlam” album. The mix between new songs and those on the album was great and made the concert less like listening to a CD at home. After two songs from the album, he decided to “take advantage of the hangovers from St. Patrick’s Day” by playing a “miserable” song, “Goodbye My Lover.” For anyone who has heard the CD, this is arguably one of the best songs (and will be the next single), and it was supposedly recorded on the piano in Carrie Fisher’s bathroom. For the concert, Blunt sang as he played the piano. There was no band, yet there was so much power in his voice he probably didn’t even need a piano. As with

*As with all of Blunt’s songs, his voice is a mixture of deep, rough tones and pure, high notes, between which he transitions with ease.*

all of Blunt’s songs, his voice is a mixture of deep, rough tones and pure, high notes, between which he transitions with ease.

After the “miserable” song, he played a more upbeat song (also not on the album), followed by “Tears and Rain,” a song which he confesses is so high no one can ever sing it correctly. When Blunt started the song, with a hand casually in his pocket, it worked for the song. By simply singing, it all looked effortless, and his amazingly pure voice took center stage.

He played another new song, and then performed “Out of my Mind” from the album. This song is my least favorite from the CD, though it’s still pretty good, and his performance did

not change my opinion. The music was fine, but the screen behind him had monkeys with crowns on their heads floating by, just a little disturbing. The audience, however, did not seem to mind, as most sang along.

Next, Blunt sang another “miserable” song, “No Bravery.” If “Goodbye My Lover” is not the best track, then “No Bravery” is. The song recounts his experience as a peacekeeper in Kosovo during the genocide.

Again, he performed the song alone while playing the piano accompanied by a video of his time in Kosovo projected onto the screen behind him, making this the most powerful song of the night. His voice made it obvious that he meant what he sang — and so did the moment of silence after the song. To continue with the theme of war, he played another new song called “Same Mistake.” As with the other very powerful songs, he played alone at the beginning, but this time with a guitar. When the band joined in, the stage was filled with fog and spotlights that created a dreamy effect and made me feel like I was watching a movie as opposed to listening to a live concert.

Blunt played two more songs from the album before coming back for an encore: “Where Is My Mind” and “You’re Beautiful.” I actually thought he might not play this song, but it was a great end to the concert. He even let the audience yell “f\*\*\*ing high” (changed to “flying high” on the radio). By the end, everyone was standing and singing along.

Although there were a few strange notes in a couple of songs, James Blunt was intent on getting the audience excited — he moved around the stage and asked everyone to stand up and have fun. If you are not lucky enough to see him live, at least get the CD, because it is an instant classic that you will listen to over and over again.

## DANCE REVIEW

# Boston Ballet Hits 'Grand Slam' Into the Stands

## Four Short Pieces Were Thrilling and Evocative, 'Plan to B' Especially Explosive

By Natania Antler

STAFF WRITER

Grand Slam  
Boston Ballet  
The Wang Theatre  
March 16 - 26, 2006

Boston Ballet certainly did hit a “Grand Slam” with their program of the same name last weekend. For this offering of the spring lineup, they performed four short choreographic works, two of them world premieres.

The first piece was called “Etesian,” which means summer winds over the Mediterranean. Although the costuming and lighting certainly evoked feelings of summer, it reminded me more strongly of the feeling of dancing alone in one’s room. Choreographed by Helen Pickett, the piece was set to the music of Bach and Beethoven, with strategically placed silent spots. The piece opened with silence, unusual and quite powerful. Some of the lifts and intertwining moves between couples were also especially original — this was a lighthearted piece that got a bit

long towards the end, but was refreshingly unique.

The next piece, “Plan to B,” stole the show. This tour de force, choreographed by Jorma Elo, gave one the sense of a Rube Goldberg device consisting of dancers in motion. Each movement had a cause and a distinct effect. The performance, with more steps packed into a short twelve minutes than I care to count, could have been exhausting to watch, but instead it was exhilarating. The dancers pulled off the complex combinations with precision and studied ease.

While some of the crowd-pleasing tricks — including a no-handed flip, and some near-horizontal one-and-a-half-tour jumps — were fun, I was more intrigued by the sustained movement that allowed for one dancer to casually wind another up and set him or her moving off across the stage. In one part Lia Cirio (March 17) moved with her partner in a sequence reminiscent of the wind-up doll dances from “The Nutcracker.” Some acrobatic and light-footed dancing by John Lam (March 17) also was impressive.

“Up and Down,” a world premiere of

choreography by Mark Morris, was a radical change in pace from the piece preceding it. This work, set to music from a saxophone quartet, was suggestive of daytime scenes from “The Great Gatsby.” The women’s costumes were well done, but the men’s included unflattering shirts that exposed just enough

chest to be distracting. The choreography was low-key, and, to be honest, kind of boring, though I liked the new things Morris did with the dancers’ arms. There was also an interesting dance of four with Karine Seneca (March 17) and three men, but even with that the work didn’t capture my imagination.

I’m often wary of pieces that claim to fuse ballet with some other sort of ethnic dance, as sometimes they can turn out as the worst of both worlds. However, in “Lambarena,” Val Caniparoli did a fine job of combining traditional African dance and ballet. Unfor-

tunately, in what seemed to be an emerging theme for this show, the women’s costumes were gorgeous, but the men’s costume design was again, really ugly and distracting. Whatever possessed Sandra Woodall to put the men in see-through black baggy shirts with colonial hair ribbons? This also was confusing — what kind of message were the costumes supposed to send, and were the men supposed to be colonial conquerors?

On the other hand, the dancing was well done, with some very unique choreography. I especially liked the pas de deux with Kathleen Breen Combes (March 17) and Joel Prouty (March 17). Also, Lorna Feijóo (March 17) shined as she led the women in the joyful opening and closing of the dance.

Luckily “Grand Slam” has a two-week run, and is playing through this weekend. Make haste to the theater!

*The dancers pulled off the complex combinations with precision and studied ease.*

— about “Plan to B”

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Brunch at The Middle East Unique But Inconsistent

## Classic American Fare Mixed with Middle Eastern Flavors Worth a Try — But Only One

**By Yaa-Lirng Tu**

*The Middle East  
472 Massachusetts Ave  
Cambridge, MA  
(617) 492-9181  
<http://www.mideastclub.com>*

**A**s many of you may know, The Middle East's entertainment repertoire has expanded from belly dancers to rock gods, making for shows where names big and small join to capture audiences with nights of unrestrained merrymaking.

A small family-owned Lebanese restaurant that first opened its doors in 1970 to a neighborhood of ethnic food hungry customers, The Middle East expanded over the years from what was later called "the Upstairs" next door to what is now the restaurant "Zuzu," around the corner to "the Corner," and finally out again to "the Downstairs." Together these comprise three performance rooms and three restaurants, though the mystery of the relationship between three similar but disconnected restaurants still confounds the best of us.

People who have enjoyed good music and the occasional Middle Eastern dish here may be surprised to find that this restaurant has a brunch menu — or at least the downstairs of the Upstairs does. The brunch offers, for the most part, the same old American items: omelettes, waffles, and bacon. The bacon, however, comes as a side on a plate of lettuce, and everything is topped with a liberal helping of fruit, from kiwis to strawberries to thin orange slices. The non-sweet meals each arrive with a small glop of a spicy paste.

Having tried brunch at Middle East once before, we were disappointed. The drinks were nothing special — though the carrot juice was excellent, the grapefruit juice was too sour and tasted artificial. The fruit, too, was not as fresh this visit, but the "fresh fruit waffle" (\$7.95) was still tasty. The chocolate chip pancakes (\$5.25) were sickeningly sweet because of an excess of chocolate chips and cheap-tasting chocolate syrup, which also ruined the chocolate baklava (\$5.50). A rich phyllo pastry layered with chopped nuts and, in this case, chocolate, the baklava was not sweet enough, even with the cheap-tasting sauce, and its layers mashed together.

Despite the disappointments, The Middle East did have quite a few treats to offer. Egg dishes varied in quality, from tasteless scrambled eggs accompanied with a very good chicken shish kebab (\$7.50) to delicious poached eggs with a dry but rather generous serving of salmon (\$7.95). The Bith Ala Bonadoura (\$6.25), a scrambled egg platter cooked with chunks of garlic and tomato, was the most flavorful of the bunch. The garlic made a huge difference in the taste of the eggs, which had a Mexican flavor but were not as meaty and greasy as a taco. In addition, the home fries — potato quarters roasted and sautéed with bits of peppers and onions — were also very well-prepared.

The flaws in the meals accompanied the unfortunate atmospheric faux pas, such as strings of half-broken Christmas lights along the ceiling. Perhaps the Middle East is more conducive to sultry nighttime forays and not the bright and warm feeling of Sunday morning brunch. That would explain the slow service, and the automatic 18 percent gratuity for only five people.

Even though the Middle East is a great place for inspired musical enlightenment, its brunch has proven to be inconsistent. On the right day, brunch can be a delicious experience, topped off with ever-abundant fruit; on the wrong day, it's all a bit dull. Still, the uniqueness of their ethnically-derived meals make it worth at least a try.

## FILM REVIEW ★1/2

# 'Don't Come Knocking' on This Movie

## Good Acting Can't Save a Slow and Aimless Plot

**By Yong-yi Zhu**

*STAFF WRITER  
Don't Come Knocking  
Directed by Wim Wenders  
Written by Sam Shepard and Wim Wenders  
Starring Sam Shepard and Jessica Lange  
Rated R  
Now playing*

**W**here is Howard? Who is Howard? That's the question this entire film tries to answer. Not necessarily where he is physically or who he is exactly, but rather how Howard fits into the greater reality.

The movie is focused on Western movie star Howard Spence (Sam Shepard). He leaves the set of his latest film production and simply runs away without explaining to anyone. He gets rid of his clothing, his credit cards, his cell phone, and any way for someone to trace him. Howard runs to his mother (Eva Marie Saint), whom he hasn't seen in thirty years, for sanctuary from the reality that he has established for himself.

Despite his celebrity, Howard hasn't been doing so well — his onetime fame has been replaced with infamy as his life has filled with drugs, alcohol, sex, and arrests. He even tries to find Doreen (Jessica Lange), a woman of his past, just to reconcile with her.

The movie, however, doubts Howard's ability to change: how will he come to terms with himself when he is so easily drawn into the world of depravity? Will the people around him suddenly approve of him simply because he wants to improve? Will the movie producers find him and drag him back into the world he is desperately trying to leave?

Howard's world could not have been created without a group of talented actors. This cast

**Howard (Sam Shepard) is a renowned Western movie star searching for his identity in "Don't Come Knocking."**

may not be terribly famous, but that's the whole point of the movie: small-town people leading small-town lives. In fact, the acting is probably the strongest asset of the film.

Sam Shepard does an excellent job as some-

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Dim Sum a Quiet and Delicious Affair

## Modern Restaurant Island Hopper Has a Well-Kept Secret in Its Unique Dim Sum Menu

**By Sally Lou**

*Island Hopper  
91 Massachusetts Ave  
Boston, MA 02115  
(617) 266-1618*

**L**ooking for dim sum in Boston but don't feel like making the trip to Chinatown? Island Hopper is the place to get your fix for this traditional Chinese midmorning meal, which is served in many small portions. The restaurant, located at the intersection of Massachusetts Ave. and Newbury Street, infuses the cuisine of several Southeast Asian countries into a five-page menu, proclaiming to capture the best flavors of the region.

Mindful of the crowded masses that usually surround China Pearl and Chau Chow City on Saturday and Sunday mornings, we arrived to find — surprisingly — mostly empty seats at Island Hopper. Either most people aren't aware that Island Hopper serves dim sum or it was just too early to be out on a Saturday morning. Be sure to request the dim sum menu, as the waiter will otherwise hand you the lunch menu.

The menu is essentially a checklist containing all the items offered for dim sum, which goes back to the waiter with selections marked. The waiter then brings out the dishes from the kitchen one by one. Dim sum purists may be disappointed by the absence of waiter-pushed rolling carts stacked with rows of steamers; these are an essential part of the typical Chinatown dim sum experience, and they don't appear at Island Hopper.

Then again, the expectations are slightly different, since Island Hopper isn't a typical Asian restaurant. Adjacent to Newbury Street, it has appropriately upscale décor that you wouldn't expect from a place that also offers take-out. Colorful modern art lines one wall, with Asian-inspired decorations placed in convenient corners. The matching plates, too, have a modern design. To create a cozy atmosphere, the multi-colored high ceiling lights are slightly dimmed. The food is placed on doilies, and the jasmine tea is served in teacups with saucers.

The food selection at Island Hopper is just as unique as the décor. It offers the usual dim sum fare, such as steamed shrimp dumplings (\$4.95), lotus chicken sticky rice (\$2.95), and steamed pork buns (\$3.95). Other Southeast Asian influences on the menu that aren't likely to be found

in other dim sum places are dishes like Poh Piah (\$4.50) — a Malaysian style spring roll — and the vegetarian samosas (\$2.95). Though Island Hopper offers more ethnic variety in food, taking its selection from Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, it lacks many authentic dishes that are usually on the dim sum menu (such as chicken feet or tripe).

In general, most of the dishes were very appetizing, with subtle flavors woven in the accompanying spices and sauces. The vegetarian samosas were particularly delicious, with a flaky pastry shell wrapped around a soft stuffing. An accompanying tamarind sauce perfectly complemented the taste of the samosas. Another dish that we couldn't get enough of was the eggplants stuffed with shrimp (\$4.75), which were drizzled with hoisin sauce and topped with scallions. The pan-seared dumplings (\$3.95) were also delectable; the outside was cooked to a textured crispy skin and the soupy inside was reminiscent of the Shanghai dish xiao long bao zi. The only item that didn't meet our expectations was the scallion pancake (\$3.95), which was overly fried, creating a hard consistency. The accompanying dipping sauce helped to overcome the bland taste, but scallion pancakes generally should be able to stand on their own.

As a word of caution for vegetarians, dim sum primarily tends to be a pork and shrimp featured meal. Island Hopper, however, did have a number of vegetarian friendly selections such as the vegetarian spring roll (\$3.25), the vegetarian samosas, and the steamed spinach ravioli (\$3.95).

Though the food was pleasing, we found that our waiter was rather inattentive. Even though we were one of only a few people in the restaurant, we could never find him when we had a request. Island Hopper's atmosphere and food may have been nice, but the service was a bit lacking.

Between the five of us, we ordered a total of 13 dishes, and we easily finished all of them. The portions for dim sum at Island Hopper tend to be smaller than in Chinatown, and the dishes are generally more expensive, each item ranging from \$2.95 to \$9.95. If you're looking for a genuine dim sum experience, Chinatown is still the way to go, but if you're looking for a close-to-campus excursion for unique flavors, Island Hopper is an excellent choice. Dim sum is served every Saturday and Sunday until 3 p.m.

however, makes it impossible to believe that Howard could have, at any point, done any of the evil things he runs from.

Jessica Lange's performance screams for an Oscar nomination. She is the perfect woman for her role, as you forget she is acting — her emotions are conveyed powerfully and you believe she feels the pains and the pleasures of her character.

Even with these talented actors, the movie still leaves a lot to be desired. Perhaps the lack of dialogue and quiet music are used to convey the contemplative nature of the film, but it also makes parts drag on.

On top of that, it's disjoint; it's not all about Howard's reconciliation, because there's also a man from the movie studios (Tim Roth) searching for the runaway movie star. He is not only eccentric beyond belief, but brings comic relief that just doesn't fit with the rest of the movie. In the end, despite the good acting and great music, the film lacks cohesion and direction.

**SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT presents "Don't Come Knocking."**

## FILM REVIEW ★★½

**'She's the Man' Is Not Da Bomb***Nothing Great in This Recycled Teenybopper Flick*

By Bill Andrews

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

*She's the Man*  
Directed by Andy Fickman  
Written by Ewan Leslie and Karen McCullah Lutz & Kirsten Smith  
Starring Amanda Bynes  
Rated PG-13  
Now playing

**A**s my fiancée and I filed into the theater, things looked grim. Not in a morbid, ominous way, but in a "we're totally the oldest people here" kinda of way, a "we're probably the only people here who haven't watched The Disney Channel today" kinda of way. I had hope, however; after all, this was a movie based on Shakespeare's work, and a hot girl actually did a good high school movie recently ("Mean Girls"), so why not 2006 as well? As soon as the movie started, though, I had my answer: dialogue.

"She's the Man," starring Amanda Bynes, is a modern adaptation of the Shakespeare comedy "Twelfth Night." In both plots, a girl named Viola pretends to be her twin brother Sebastian for one reason or another (survival in one, soccer in the other — I'll let you guess which), and does so much male bonding with (the) Duke Orsino that she falls for him; he, though, is after a girl named Olivia, who in her hilarious turn is after the man she thinks is Sebastian (but isn't!). In "She's the Man" there are also exes thrown in for fun and profit, and a female equality angle that was absent in the original.

Since I knew about all of these differences ahead of time, they didn't scare me. After all, "10 Things I Hate About You," probably the best modern adaptation of Shakespeare, had its share of departures from the original, and look how great that turned out. I believed we were ready for another quality adaptation.

## FILM REVIEW ★★

**V for Vendetta***Wachowski Brothers Botch Movie Adaptation of Classic Graphic Novel*

By Nivair Gabriel

ARTS EDITOR

*V for Vendetta*  
Based on the graphic novel by Alan Moore and David Lloyd  
Written by Andy and Larry Wachowski  
Directed by James McTeigue  
Starring Natalie Portman, Hugo Weaving, Stephen Rea, Stephen Fry, John Hurt  
Rated R  
Opens Today

**T**hree great things about Alan Moore and David Lloyd's graphic novel "V for Vendetta" are that it's a collection of brilliant character studies, it's unlike every other dystopian story, and the connection between the two main characters isn't reduced to a cheap and hackneyed infatuation. In their movie adaptation, the Wachowski Brothers changed all of that.

Watching the film is like waiting anxiously for a bus, only to find that each one that arrives is going somewhere else. The movie is deceptive:

Apparently, Hollywood disagreed. Within the first three minutes of actual movie (after an opening sequence featuring half-naked Viola playing soccer at the beach), I knew it couldn't live up to "10 Things." The script was just awful — the producers obviously didn't allow any lines that hadn't been in at least five other teen movies.

Movies aren't just built on dialogue, though, right? There are other things too, like good acting — but not in this case. While it is difficult to assess the quality of actors in such movies, I got the impression that Bynes was using her face a little more than was good for her. In fact, there were no real standout performances (though it was nice to see Airplane's Julie Hagerty), which is strange given the huge potential of some of the roles. The same went for the music, costumes, and directing.

All of this is not to say, though, that "She's the Man" is not an enjoyable enough movie. In fact, it was pretty funny at times — for as any fan of Abrams or Zucker knows, there are two kinds of humor: witty and situational. This movie excels at the latter. They got more mileage out of the "chick's a dude" joke than Shakespeare did, and it somehow never got old. Appropriately for that, the sheer absurdness of how much Viola looked like her brother (except for the two-inch height difference) was pretty mesmerizing as well. My fiancée and I laughed a lot, but not nearly as much as our younger friends in the audience, who clearly loved it all. So, on its own terms, the movie was pretty successful.

Sure, it could've been smarter, wittier, and better. (I don't think it could've been hotter, especially considering they followed the lead of "10 Things" regarding girls and flashing.) It could've been much more than a teenybopper movie with some awesome Shakespearian references. But that's just not what they wanted with this picture. What a tragic ending for this comedy!



DREAMWORKS PICTURES AND LAKE SHORE ENTERTAINMENT

Duke (Channing Tatum) escorts the new debutante Viola (Amanda Bynes) in "She's the Man."

with illustrator Lloyd on board, "V for Vendetta" is visually breathtaking, and most scenes are directly reminiscent of panels in the comic book. It's all the more disturbing, then, when important plot points are scrubbed, character motivations are totally altered (or, more often, erased), and it becomes clear that Andy and Larry Wachowski completely missed the point.

"V for Vendetta," the graphic novel, is a dark and personal portrayal of various people's lives in a Fascist and futuristic Great Britain; the one thing the characters share is their connection with V, a masked figure whose ideas are stronger than his identity. The story is knitted together deftly, and the subtlety and thoughtfulness of the dialogue makes it truly unique. "V for Vendetta" the movie is an odd, skewed blend of Moore's original lines and the Wachowski Brothers' horrible new ideas.

Instead of showing the human side of the

Fascist leaders, as Moore does with great success in the comic book, the Wachowski Brothers chose to add multiple pointless scenes in which

the newly renamed Chancellor (John Hurt) spits with rage at his all-male lackeys. Moore's more subtle portrayal, therefore, has given way to a glaring portrait of Hitler that leaves viewers no room for sympathy (or original thought). In the book, V's at first unwilling protégé Evey (Natalie Portman in the film) has an entirely normal love affair with Gordon Dietrich (Stephen Fry), whose murder finally convinces her that she cannot find a place in such a corrupt world. In the movie, Dietrich is instead a gay man who resists the government — his entire purpose in the plot changes. The Wachowski Brothers, too, decide to spend script time developing their own concept of a biological weapon, glossing over the explanation of V's imprisonment. V's motivation is reduced to two lines: "What was done to me was monstrous," and "they created a monster." This describes a cookie-cutter Hollywood villain, not a character as nuanced and ambiguous as V. Obviously, Andy and Larry's idiotic and overdone messages should have been left out of the script entirely, and it's easy to see why writer

Alan Moore has called this work "rubbish." The actors, at least, believed, even in this skewed vision. Stephen Rea gives a brilliant performance as the quiet and determined Inspector Finch, who in the process of looking for V becomes consumed by him. Rea made it possible to almost imagine that his character had layers. As the revamped Evey, Portman tugged at the heartstrings, performing memorably in the one scene the screenwriters managed not to ruin. Hugo Weaving lent his voice to the masked V with great success; on the rare occasions when the script lifted almost direct quotes from Moore's book, Weaving delivered the lines perfectly.

For viewers interested in hot fight scenes and easy resolution of conflicts, this might be the film to see. V's shrewd knives fly through the air, bullet-like raindrops fall on Evey's face, and pretty much everything explodes. So far as cinematography and special effects are concerned, director James McTeigue doesn't disappoint — but it's a far more difficult task to tell a good story, and this movie doesn't.

**ON THE SCREEN**

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

★★★★: Inspired brilliance  
★★★: Solid filmmaking  
★★: Mild entertainment  
★: Embarrassing dreck

**Brokeback Mountain**  
Ang Lee's gritty and realistic film has been called revolutionary for being a mainstream movie about cowboys who fall in love with each other, but the story is in truth incredibly simple. At its heart, "Brokeback" is a beautifully crafted film that tells a story strikingly similar to some of the oldest tales of love in our society. (Andrew Guerra)

**Curious George**  
The question is whether we, as adults, can sit through an hour and a half of watching a non-talking monkey and a man in a bright yellow suit voiced by Will Ferrell. The answer, surprisingly, is an emphatic yes. What really sells the movie to adults is the amount of emotion generated with such a simple plot, although the most delightful aspect by far is the music. Before long, you may find yourself buying the soundtrack to a movie that is quite funny and enjoyable, even to those over the age of five. (Yong-yi Zhu)

**Eight Below**  
"Eight Below" is a nature movie riding the waves of last year's successful "March of the Penguins" and "Grizzly Man." Disney decided to hop on the bandwagon, but had to bastardize the genre with their requisite gag-inducing scenes. I am happy to say that even Disney can't completely ruin a good thing; if you need an escape and some brain candy, not to mention beautiful scenery and some terrific canine acting, you could do worse than this Antarctic adventure film. (Alice Macdonald)

**Firewall**  
Boasting equivocal baddies, a potboiler script, and cookie cutter performances, "Firewall" is a film that'll see the second-run theaters by Valentine's Day. Harrison Ford plays Jack Stanfield, a bank security expert whose life and family are threatened when robbers force him to commit electronic theft from his own employers. A great deal of acting talent is wasted on this picture, and unless something great comes along, Ford's career is essentially over. (Kevin Der)

**Munich**  
Inspired by the very real events of the 1972 Olympics, when eleven Israeli athletes were killed by Palestinian terrorists, this perfectly executed film advocates peace and wisdom. With this film, Spielberg intends to show that any conflict affects the globe, and that events in the Middle East are as relevant to our country's future as those within our own borders. (Kevin Der)

**Syriana**  
Writer and director Stephen Gaghan, who penned "Traffic," discusses the energy crisis and the war for oil in this new drama. Part of an ensemble cast, Bob Barnes (George Clooney) is a CIA operative in the Middle East who must protect U.S. interests in oil, but he starts to question his government's motives. Though Gaghan presents a convincing, albeit pessimistic world view, he does not provide an artistic vision. Ultimately more enjoyment comes after the final reel, from thinking about the questions that the film raises. (Kapil Amarnath)

**Tsotsi**  
Destruction — of people, lives, and commu-

nity — is a fact of life in the ghetto. What sets "Tsotsi" apart as a film about the life of an urban gangster is its message of hope. From the start, viewers experience the slums of Johannesburg, South Africa, through its music, an enthralling innovation on hip-hop. The secondary characters are straightforward and often fall into recognizable types, so the film is rightly named after its most interesting character; his redemption courses through the heart of the film. (Beckett Sterner)

**Why We Fight**  
Director Eugene Jarecki paints a convincing portrait of how hidden backroom deals turn the government into an oligarchy of elite interests. This political documentary ties together a coherent narrative from a set of perspectives, key facts, and historical contexts. The movie features an NYPD cop who lost a son on 9/11, a neoconservative leader (William Kristol), the pilots who fired the first salvo in the Iraq war, and more. (Beckett Sterner)

Compiled by Jacqueline O'Connor and Nivair H. Gabriel

# Students to Visit New Orleans Over Break

**Spring Break**, from Page 1

about 70 MIT students will travel to the Gulf region to aid in the relief efforts, focusing particularly on debris reclamation, according to a PSC report. These student groups will be lead by Chaplain John Wuestneck, Anna L. Schlesinger '08, Chaim Kutnicki '07, Rachel Shiffrin, and Danny Park, and will be collaborating with client non-profit and governmental organizations in New Orleans.

Kutnicki said he was participating with eight other students through MIT Hillel, which is partly

funding the trip. The group will be in the South for a week, doing roofing, debris removal, and mostly outside physical labor. At night, they plan to go to New Orleans to look around, and hold discussion groups to discuss recent events and their purpose in the area. Kutnicki said they would be staying in tents and have no access to running water or electricity.

Karl Seidman, a senior lecturer in the department of urban studies and planning, wrote in the PSC report, "The projects will be conducted in conjunction with an Economic Development Policy and Planning

Course at the University of New Orleans, which will be addressing the economic development issues associated with the current city framework for rebuilding neighborhoods in New Orleans."

Working alongside Harvard students, 10 other MIT students hope to build houses in New Orleans for Habitat for Humanity.

Sally Susnowitz, assistant dean and director of the PSC, said that besides providing partial funding for travel in terms of grants and fellowships, the PSC will also be providing guidance and support for these student groups. A grant of \$34,000 by The Coop has been of help, she said.

Since the Hurricane Katrina relief activity has been of key importance, the center has created a special April 12 deadline for PSC Summer Fellowships for Hurricane Katrina Relief projects, said Susnowitz. This will encourage students traveling to work in the Gulf Region over spring break to bring back project ideas and to apply for summer fellowships to carry them out, the report states. "They should be conscious of all the good that they are doing and give themselves due credit," she said.

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# Admins, Students Have Differing Visions For Dorm

**Grad Dorm**, from Page 1

ing at the table until the deadline of March 31, students expressed pessimism that their concerns and recommendations would be given serious consideration.

To address concerns about affordability, administrators hope to set rents for the new building below those of Sidney-Pacific residence hall. Since rents are not expected to be able to cover costs for the new residence in at least the first few years, Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict and Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert say they expect a temporary subsidy, although the amount, source, and duration of the subsidy is unknown. Greenblatt emphasized that it would not be Institute policy to subsidize graduate housing in the long term.

#### News Analysis: A divergence of visions

What is at issue is a fundamental difference between what administrators see as desirable for MIT's future, and what student representatives believe their population requires. While everyone agrees that a strong community should be a key consideration in the design of any new dormitory, and that increase in on-campus capacity will benefit graduate students, tensions arose over different ideas about the realization of those goals, in particular, the student emphasis on affordability vs. the administration's requirements for minimum amenities.

Over the past month, student members of the planning committees have been working to create a model that would address student concerns within budget and time constraints. But at the space subcommittee meeting last Friday, Vice President for Institute Affairs Kirk D. Kolenbrander said "It's not about numbers, it's about the quality of life." If there is a quantitative disagreement, then there

is an answer" that reasonable people can find, he said in a later interview. "If it's a difference in vision, then reasonable people can disagree."

One issue of contention is whom the new residence will serve. With rents estimated to fall on the high end of what is currently available, student representatives worry that many Ashdown residents will not be able to make the transition, and instead will be forced to move off-campus. To build an expensive new apartment style residence hall while shutting down Ashdown, a lower priced option, amounts to "gentrification," said AHEC president Sudhasatwa Sinha.

Greenblatt rejected that view, saying that rather, "It's part of the normal evolution of standards," and that while the new building may seem expensive now, "in time I believe the cost of living and the amount of money that graduate students are given will balance out."

"I think students are overly pessimistic," said Colbert, but acknowledged that "some people will always get left behind." He added that "if it emerges that all those left behind are in a particular socio-economic class, then maybe we have something to look at ... There are always unintended consequences. It's too early to know what those consequences would be."

"There are too many variables in play, I don't think you can say that we're moving towards a gentrified system," said Kolenbrander.

If MIT were to "make provisions for the poorest students, it's a policy issue, not an architectural issue," Colbert said. He said that Ashdown as it now stands addresses issues of affordability and community admirably, but "not by design."

Meanwhile, there is an inherent tension between two of the administration's own goals: to build community by providing quality pro-

#### Resolution 52gsc.11.2: "Termination of the Currently Planned Residence Hall Project";

We, the representative body of MIT graduate students, support the termination of the currently proposed planning project on the grounds that it does not meet the needs of the graduate student body, has been planned without any substantial student or faculty input and without duly regarding the previously passed resolutions 52gsc.10.1, 52gsc.10.3, and 52gsc.10.4, and that it is financially unsound. At the same time, we affirm our strong support for the increase of graduate housing options in a manner that does address the diverse needs of the graduate student body in a fiscally responsible manner. We furthermore insist that MIT begin the planning process anew at a later date in a manner that allows for appropriate student and faculty input throughout the process.

#### Resolution 52gsc.11.3: "Modification of the Currently Planned Residence Hall Project";

If MIT adopts revisions to the currently proposed residence hall, such as converting a substantial number of living rooms to bedrooms in a manner that allows for increased occupancy, lower rents, and more common space ... we, the representative body of MIT graduate students, would support the construction of such a residence hall.

The full text of both resolutions will be posted at <http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/meetings/legislation/>.

gramming and common space for interaction, and to create apartments that will provide a high material standard of living with single bedrooms and a kitchen and living room for each apartment. While both increase the quality of life, the latter are needed to attract "the best and brightest," said Colbert, and there is a trade-off between common space and private space given that the size of the building is limited.

"The value we add has to do with community development," said Benedict, but "we're worried about having something down the road to attract graduate students."

GSC co-chair Eric G. Weese G pointed out at the GSC meeting that while universities like Princeton and Stanford may be building new facilities, they are not eliminating their low-cost options or displacing their less well-off students.

One source of uncertainty is that neither housing administrators nor student representatives can be sure of what different segments of the graduate student community want. "Students vote with their feet" has been a catchphrase for administrators, who analyze demand data from the housing lottery to determine what kinds of

rooms are popular with students and which are likely to remain unfilled.

While the GSC has conducted housing surveys and its members represent a cross-section of on-campus and off-campus students from many departments and different dormitories, they have not had the opportunity to target a survey specific to the design of the new residence toward the graduate population at large.

There are a number of pressures on MIT to build this new graduate residence now and convert Ashdown to an undergraduate dormitory by 2008, including but not limited to: pressure from the faculty to increase undergraduate class size, which is currently limited by the number of beds on-campus, the need to be seen as competitive with peer institutions in terms of the quality of living facilities provided to students, a desire to end Senior Segue, and "building a stronger graduate student community on-campus," said Colbert.

While administrators appear committed to moving forward, a consensus on what will be built is still important. "I'm afraid of a failure of vision," Colbert said, referring to what he described as short-term goals

emphasizing of quantity over quality. "We don't want to build crackerbox es, warehousing people."

If the new building is not built at this time, there are no guarantees about the fate of Ashdown, since the pressure to increase undergraduate beds will not go away, and filling Ashdown doubles remains difficult.

In the worst-case scenario, "they could not build the new dorm, and still kick graduate students out of Ashdown," said Bruni. Either way, there would be no increase in the number of graduate beds on-campus in the immediate future.

While the new building is a big up-front investment, each potential additional undergraduate does bring revenue to the university through tuition, although that revenue is not directly part of the budget for MIT Housing.

The unevenness of the process may be a casualty of the transition in administration leadership; both the president and EVP are new, and inherited this project from their predecessors. "Am I an expert? No," said Greenblatt. "I see an opportunity here to provide more housing for graduate students and we should take advantage of that opportunity."

## Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the Cambridge or MIT Police between March 3 and March 20. This summary does not include incidents such as suspicious activity, false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.

**March 3:** Bldg. 26 (60 Vassar St. Rear), 2:00 p.m., office broken into; cash and jewelry stolen.

**March 4:** Student Center (84 Mass. Ave.), larceny of shoes.

**March 9:** WW15 (350 Brookline St.), 12:00 a.m., rock thrown into window.

**March 12:** New House (471 Memorial Dr.), 2:30 a.m., assault and battery by parties unknown to each other while walking along Amherst Alley.

**March 13:** Bldg. 66 (25 Ames St.), 6:45 a.m., coffee machine broken into.

**March 16:** Hayward Lot, 9:00 a.m., malicious damage to vehicle. E19 (400 Main St.), 3:45 p.m., malicious damage to female restroom.

**March 20:** W59 (201 Vassar St.), 1:15 p.m., malicious damage to building.

Compiled by Marjan Rafat with assistance from other members of the MIT Crime Club.

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**Solution to  
Bonus Crossword**  
from page 6

WIFE	MOTIF	GAPE
HOAX	AMOCO	OTIS
ON THE WATERFRONT		
	AISHA	TRENCH
CAJUN	ALPHA	CEE
IT IS SO	LEI	ERR
TIILT	VOCABLE	
ETTE	ERATO	APSE
	DOROTHY	TALL
ARB	CTN	SODIUM
SOU	CHOPS	JINGO
TONGUE	IOWAN	
UNDER THE RAINBOW		
TELL	OATER	EURO
EYES	PLANS	RYAN

**Solution to Sudoku**

from page 6

5	6	7	9	4	8	3	1	2
2	8	1	3	6	7	5	9	4
3	9	4	2	1	5	7	6	8
9	5	3	7	2	1	4	8	6
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6	7	9	8	5	2	1	4	3
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**Solution to Crossword**

from page 6

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One ticket per valid MIT student ID

**City, MIT to Compare Analyses  
Of Water Samples at Westgate**

Westgate, from Page 1

reports of contaminated water, affected half of Westgate's residents, including small children and pregnant women. About 25 families chose to be relocated to the Holiday Inn in Somerville, Heiney said.

"Because of the construction there have been periodic water shutoffs and we would always get brown yucky water just after the water had been down," said Heiney.

MIT officials will meet with the CWD today to determine which apartments have experienced contamination and reach a decision as to what further actions should be taken, said Engle.

"Cambridge has taken samples and [MIT] has taken samples from an independent lab," said Engle, "but we won't know ... until the samples come back. The timeline yesterday was much different than it is today, and our first priority is the health and safety, and then the comfort, of the residents."

The water problem comes amid an ongoing Westgate sprinkler replacement project to transfer all sprinkler systems off domestic lines and onto the MIT sprinkler system. "There is a low chance that the sprinkler pipes caused the problem," said Engle, "but when sprinkler pipes have water in them for a long period of time they begin to disintegrate and oils from the pipe threading can seep into the water." Samples were taken to determine if fingerprints left by chemicals being used in the sprinkler system



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

**The domestic water supply for the low rise area of Westgate graduate dormitory was turned off for a day Wednesday after residents reported discoloration and foul smell. Some residents chose to move to the Holiday Inn in the interim.**

matched those found in the drinking water. Work on the sprinkler system was suspended Tuesday night.

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# Connecticut's Depth Too Much for Wash., Rest of NCAA Field

Seshasai, from Page 16

the deepest team in the country, and the losses of Tennessee, North Carolina, and Illinois has helped clear the team's way to Indy.

Pick: UConn

11 George Mason vs 7 Wichita State: In perhaps the most surprising match-up of the round, Wichita State finds itself a favorite having upset (an overrated) 2 seed Tennessee. One of four teams to have come out of the Missouri Valley Conference, Wichita St. has done well representing the often overlooked Mid-Major conference.

George Mason, after upsetting two perennial favorites Michigan State and UNC, find themselves playing Wichita State for the second time in as many months, having beaten them at the end of the regular season. With a lot more on the line this time, look for the outcome to be much different.

Pick: Wichita State

## Minneapolis

1 Villanova vs 4 Boston College: Boston College survived a first round scare against Pacific, but played

# Men's Rugby Will Play Four Matches on Trip

Sports Shorts, from Page 16

'09 evened the match with a 7-5, 6-1 win in the No. 4 slot. MIT took the lead for good on Mariah Hoover's 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-2 battle at the No. 3 position. Konowich clinched the winning point by upending Nicole Veilleux, 6-4, 6-2. Emily Chen '07 fell in the final match of the day, 6-7, 6-4, 10-5.

In exhibition play, Lisa M. Shank '07 and Wang defeated Nadele Roux and Schmidt, 8-1. MacKay, Karve, and Shank each won their singles exhibition matches while Karina N. Pikhart '09 lost, 6-3.

— Mindy Brauer, Asst. Director of Sports Information

## Men's Rugby

This Thursday, the MIT Men's Rugby Team will leave on a 10 day tour of France.

One of the strongest touring sides in years, 28 ruggers will arrive in Paris on Friday and play their first game on Saturday against INA-PG (Institut National d'Agronomie de Paris Grignon).

The team will then take a train to Lyon where they will play their second game against ENS-Lyon (Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon) on Tuesday. From Lyon the team will again take a train to Montpellier to play against ENSAM (Ecole Nat. Su-

perieure d'Agronomie de Montpellier) Thursday.

The final game will be on Saturday against the Bouygues at their home pitch in the Paris suburb of Guyancourt, before the team returns to Boston the following Sunday.

John P. Shen, captain of the team, said, "This tour represents an excellent opportunity to gain experience for our new players. We look forward to playing some tough rugby against what we know are very competitive French sides, and in keeping with rugby tradition enjoying their post game hospitality."

MIT's first rugby tour to foreign lands was in 1951 to Bermuda. The team's current biannual touring tradition was established with the 1984 tour of England.

To complement the team's touring ways, M.I.T. RFC has hosted numerous foreign sides including Hatfield Polytechnic (England), Glasgow Univ. (Scotland), Imperial College (England), and a yearly rivalry with the Univ. of Western Ontario (Canada).

Only a week after returning from France the team starts its spring season with an away game on April 8 against the South Shore Anchors. For a complete list of matches and other information, see <http://www.mitrugby.org/>.

— Peter Lamb and John Paul Shen, Team Members

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# SPORTS



Stefano Young '06 attempts to beat Brandon Dube of Endicott College to the ball during the Men's Varsity Lacrosse game yesterday, Mar. 22.

STEPHANIE LEE—THE TECH

## Memphis Will End Bradley's Run, Duke and Gonzaga Will Advance

By Shreyes Seshasi

COLUMNIST

The NCAA tournament enters week two today, as 16 teams battle it out for a spot in the Final Four. Here

is a breakdown of the games by region:

### Atlanta

1 Duke vs 4 LSU: LSU snuck past 12th seeded Texas A&M in the second round, and will have to play more solid ball early to have a chance against top seeded Duke. The Tigers, out of the SEC, rely on the strong play of center Glen Davis, but will have to get a poor shooting performance from Duke's J.J. Redick in order to have a chance.

Pick: Duke

6 West Virginia vs 2 Texas: Both teams have looked strong thus far in the Tournament, but neither has real-

ly been challenged yet. Texas, a pick by many to upset Duke in the next round, can't look past this Mountaineer team from the Big East. With names such as Kevin Pittsnogle and Mike Gamsey still fresh in everyone's mind from last year, West Virginia has the experience and toughness to pull out the upset:

Pick: West Virginia

### Oakland

1 Memphis vs 13 Bradley: For everyone who picked Kansas to go far, at least their loss was partly justified by Bradley's upset of Pittsburgh in round 2. Bradley, the Cinderella team of this year, will face a stronger Memphis team looking to validate their position as a 1 seed. Perhaps it's the lack of name recognition, but even if they have the easiest path to the Elite Eight in the tourney, give this team some credit.

Pick: Memphis

## Fencer Sugimoto Named All-American

Spencer R. Sugimoto '08 became the first foilist in the history of the MIT men's fencing program to capture All-America honors after he placed 11th at the all-division NCAA National

Championship last weekend.

He recorded the Engineers'

highest finish at the national level in foil since Russell Holtz placed sixth in 1984-85. In addition, Sugimoto is the first person to collect All-America plaudits since Keith Lichten was tabbed after a second-place finish in epee in 1994-95.

Igor Kopylov '09 also made the trip to Houston, where he placed 20th in sabre to record Tech's best showing in five years. The duo's outstanding performance resulted in a 20th-place ranking in the final team standings.

— James Kramer, Dir. of Sports Information

### Women's Lacrosse Wins

The women's lacrosse team bounced back from a tough overtime loss in its season opener with a convincing 18-4 victory over Rhode Island College last Saturday at Jack Barry Field.

Ahead 4-2 just over 12 minutes into the game, MIT went on a 9-0 scoring run and never looked back in its first ever meeting with the An-chorwomen.

It was a record-breaking day for co-captain Deanna M. Lentz '06, who set new game and career records. With five goals and five assists, she established a new mark for assists in a game and tied the Institute record for points in the game. Behind the explosive effort, Lentz passed Kelsey Presson '05 as MIT's all-time leading scorer with 144 points.

— James Kramer, Dir. of Sports Information

### Men's and Women's Tennis

For the first time in the history of the men's and women's tennis programs, both squads defeated Colby College in the same season, when the men's team recorded a 4-3 victory while the women won, 5-4, on Saturday.

The men's squad posted their first win over the Mules since the 1995-96 season and the women's team defeated Colby for the first time since 2000-01. Last season, the Engineers dropped both decisions by one point.

On the men's side, Colby took the doubles point with a pair of 8-3 decisions over No. 2 Eric A. Beren '08

## Men's Volleyball Sets Ace Record in Rout

Serves 27 Aces in Win Over South Vermont

By Travis Johnson

SPORTS EDITOR

The MIT Men's Volleyball Team (21-8) politely demolished visiting South Vermont College 30-6, 30-10, 30-6 on Tuesday night, setting a team record with 27 service aces and winning in a blistering 46 minutes.

In volleyball, the team that serves is at a small disadvantage because the receiving team has the first opportunity to set up a spike, which is much harder to handle than the serve itself. The result is that in the typical volleyball match, the serve goes back and forth between teams, with the winner managing to hold serve slightly more often.

Tuesday night wasn't the typical volleyball match. MIT's experience, size, and talent broke the equilibrium and allowed MIT to convert on serve after serve, either with an ace or a hit on the following play.

Southern Vermont (1-6) is in their first season of college volleyball, and their lack of experience and history was apparent Tuesday. While MIT used complicated plays with decoy hitters and well timed attacks, Southern Vermont had one player serve underhand.

With the match so non-competitive, the Mountaineers took to laughing at their failed attempts to handle Engineer serves and their three fans gave a standing ovation both times they strung together consecutive points.

MIT, by contrast, remained serious and intense, hitting with all their strength and blocking the rare returns by the Mountaineers. As embarrassing as a blowout loss is, it is downright insulting when the other team plays with less than 100 percent effort.

Statistically, it was a landmark night for the Engineers. The team hit an Institute record 27, Praveen Pamikumkala '08 had a .833 hitting percentage (compare that to a team average of .273 on the season), and Randolph H. Li '08 set career highs with 7 kills and 2 blocks.

After the best stretch of the night for Southern Vermont, a 3-1 run in the third game to make the score 16-6 MIT, the Engineers broke serve and Ryan G. Dean '08 took over from there.

Serving and playing setter, Dean powered a 14-0 run that ended the match. Recording aces on 7 of his 13 serves, and racing up to play setter on the rest, Dean could do no wrong. One serve barely cleared the top of the net, and another would have been out had the Mountaineers not fielded it.

As if to put an exclamation point on the night, Dean's final serve was scorching ace, perfectly placed in the back corner to seal the win for his team.

MIT has one more regular season game, at Lesley this Thursday, before the conference tournament to be held at Endicott College starting Friday March 31st.

## UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

### Friday, March 24, 2006

Boston Open 2006 2 p.m., W33  
Varsity Men's Lacrosse vs. Clark University 4 p.m., Jack Barry Field

### Saturday, March 25, 2006

Boston Open 2006 9 a.m., W33  
Varsity Sailing – Marchiando Trophy 9:30 a.m., Charles River  
Varsity Sailing – Sloop Shrew Trophy 9:30 a.m., Charles River

### Sunday, March 26, 2006

Boston Open 2006 9 a.m., W33  
Varsity Sailing – Marchiando Trophy 9:30 a.m., Charles River  
Varsity Sailing – Emily Wick Trophy 9:30 a.m., Charles River



Christina Kang—The Tech  
Peden P. Nichols '09 wins a match 6-4, 6-4. MIT Men's Tennis won the home game 5-2 on Wednesday.

Sports Shorts, Page 15